

Document: ACCOBAMS-SC14/2021/Doc08
Distribution: 20/11/2021

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

Presented by the Secretariat

Issue: activities developed since the last Meeting of the Parties in November 2019

1. Action requested

The Scientific Committee will be invited to:

- a) **note** the activities developed since the last Meeting of the Parties in November 2019;
- b) **provide** their views on

2. Background

This report covers the period from November 2019 to October 2021. It was prepared by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat in order to inform the Scientific Committee on:

- main activities undertaken since November 2019;
- the status of each action planned under the 2020-2022 Work Programme;

MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT (MA)

MA1	INVOLVEMENT OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS
MA1a	Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations

Expected outcomes	Involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations
--------------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Status for the current triennium ¹	detailed developments
<p>Establish/strengthen partnerships and collaborations with all relevant IGOs, NGOs, and international/national entities</p> <p>Strengthen involvement of all riparian Countries to encourage accession to the Agreement of all riparian states and to develop activities with non-Parties</p> <p>Strengthen involvement of national representatives in formulating actions related to cetacean conservation, according to their</p>	Core	<p>Secretariat Parties, Non-Party Range States, Scientific Committee Partners, SRCUs²</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing MoU • Participating in Coordination Meetings and relevant fora • Working through relevant Joint WG • Developing joint actions / projects • Organizing joint Workshops, in particular with Partners • Linking with relevant marine strategies • Contributing to the determination and monitoring of the GES (MSFD) and favourable conservation status (HD) 	Ongoing	<p>Liaison and coordination with partner Organizations is done on a regular basis. In particular, several virtual meetings were organized to introduce the New Executive Secretary, namely with CMS, IWC, GFCM, SPA/RAC and IUCN, inter alia, to discuss common priorities for collaboration, based on the 2020-2022 ACCOBAMS Program of Work.</p> <p>ACCOBAMS was the Coordinator of a Session in the “Mediterranean stand” of the international IUCN Congress (Marseille, France, 5-8 September 2021), supported by MAVAs, on 6/9/2021 with several other bodies under the theme “Improving partnership and effective and equitable governance of Mediterranean natural resources”. Together with the GFCM, ACCOBAMS showcased the ASI integrated approach and NETCCOBAMS platform, and the collaboration with GFCM with examples of joint mobilisation towards an effective Strategic Alliance on spatial-based protection and conservation</p>

¹ Possible status:

- Ongoing
- Partially completed
- Completed
- Not implemented

² SRCUs = Sub-regional Coordination Units

<p>national priorities (regional workshops)</p> <p>Reinforce synergy between Partners and harmonize activities</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in the process of fully developing the Companion Volume for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 • Liaising with the Depository to encourage accession to the Agreement of riparian states • Liaising with Sub Regional Coordination Units 	<p>measures for marine biodiversity. ACCOBAMS participated at a Side-event “Contributing into building governance for a transboundary” in North-Western Mediterranean Sea, organised by OFB, France.</p> <p>OFB France: ACCOBAMS - Executive Secretary, Chair and Vice Chair of SC - participated at a workshop in October 2021, promoted by OFB in Paris, on a PSSA possible proposal to be submitted to IMO in 2022.</p> <p>Regarding Barcelona Convention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a letter was sent to the Secretariat of UNEP/MAP to propose a collaboration between UNEP/MAP and ACCOBAMS for the EcAp-MED III project and the preparation of the 2023 Quality Status Report. No reply was received so far. - the Secretariat participated at meetings organised by Barcelona Convention (SPA/RAC FP Meeting, CORMON Meetings, Meetings dedicated to spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity, SAP BIO Meetings) strategic priorities and key activities were provided to the organisers. - the Secretariat committed to contribute to the independent evaluation of the implementation of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016/2021. - A Memorandum of Understanding between ACCOBAMS and SPA/RAC for the 3-years period 2020-2022 was signed in October 2020. <p>The First Meeting of the ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Joint Bycatch Working Group (JBWG1) was organized on February 2021.</p> <p>A workshop with the JNWG was organized in January 2020 in the framework of the QuietMed2 project regarding a proposal of a candidate for an impulsive noise indicator in MED Region. The Secretariat participated to Meetings of the EU-TG-Noise. The 2 co-chairs of the JNWG are involved in the Advisory Board of the EU funded project called QuietSeas.</p> <p>Liaising with the Depository was done through a meeting in June 2020 with HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and His Advisor, where</p>
--	--	--	--	---

				<p>details of the ACCOBAMS PoW and foreseen activities in relation to the ACCOBAMS 25th anniversary in 2021 were discussed.</p> <p>Many other meetings were held with high representatives of the Depository country, where both the accession and ratification process were discussed as current priorities for ACCOBAMS. The Secretariat was approached by Israel on the accession process foreseen in the Agreement. Being a “range State”, Israel is entitled to become a party to the ACCOBAMS by depositing an instrument of accession with the Depository, that is the Government of the Principality of Monaco (Art. XVII of the ACCOBAMS).</p> <p>Meetings including at distance were also held with some diplomatic representatives of ACCOBAMS countries and National Focal Points</p> <p>The Secretariat participated at meetings of the Marine Expert Group coordinated by DG Environment of the European Commission.</p>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing ACCOBAMS Institutional Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting of the Parties - Scientific Committee Meetings - Bureau Meetings - Meeting of National Representatives to develop the Programme of Work 	<p>The Thirteenth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (SC13) was organized in Cap d’Ail, France, between 26 and 28 February 2020.</p> <p>The Thirteenth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau (BU13), initially planned to take place at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, 9/10 December, had to be organized online, 9-11 December 2020, due to worldwide travel restrictions.</p> <p>The Fifth Meeting of National Representatives was organized online from 12 to 15 July 2021.</p> <p>The Fourteen Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (SC14) is organized from 22 to 26 November 2021, during the week of the 25th anniversary of ACCOBAMS.</p>

MA2	ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING, IN PARTICULAR FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES
MA2a	Mobilizing and diversifying funding sources

Expected outcomes	Additional funds mobilized for conservation actions Regional capacities in project development and fundraising increased
--------------------------	---

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	<i>Status for the current triennium</i>	<i>detailed developments</i>
Fund projects under the Supplementary Conservation Grant Fund (SCF) related to cetacean conservation	Core	Secretariat Parties, Non-Party Range States, Scientific Committee Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching a call for proposals for projects related to cetacean conservation 	Call for proposals will be launched in 2022	Monaco and Italy provided voluntary contributions to support some projects
Monitor funding opportunities and develop (or support the development of) proposals for multilateral projects and co-funded activities	Core		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing information on funding opportunities • Using established partnerships and collaborations with all relevant IGOs, NGOs, and international/ national entities 		News on funding opportunities are regularly published on the ACCOBAMS website. A Call for voluntary contributions for the implementation of the Work Programme 2020-2022 was sent to all Focal Points and Bureau Members in July 2020.
Monitor funding opportunities	Core		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing information on funding opportunities • Using established partnerships and collaborations with all relevant IGOs, NGOs, and international/ national entities 		Phases 2 of the MAVA Depredation and MedBycatch projects have been developed and funding has been allocated by the MAVA Foundation. ACCOBAMS participates as Partner in the MedBycatch2 project and as Coordinator in the Depredation2 project.
Support the development of capacities in project development and fundraising	Core		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing a training workshop on project development/fundraising 		An Additional support was granted from MAVA for the evaluation of the ASI project, in view of developing an ACCOBAMS long term Monitoring Programme.

					<p>A small grant was provided by MAVAs to capitalize on the experience and knowledge acquired through the MedBycatch project in the implementation of the on-board observer program.</p> <p>The ACCOBAMS Secretariat participates as Partner in two projects funded by EU under the DG ENV/MSFD 2020 Call: Marine Strategy Framework Directive - Support to the preparation of the next 6-year cycle of implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- ABIOMMED "Support coherent and coordinated assessment of biodiversity and measures across Mediterranean for the next 6-year cycle of MSFD implementation- QUIETSEAS "Assisting (sub) regional cooperation for the practical implementation of the MSFD second cycle by providing methods and tools for D11 (underwater noise)" <p>The ACCOBAMS Secretariat supports the development of a consortium to prepare a pre-proposal under a call of the Biodiversa+ programme.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

MA3	IMPLEMENTATION OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH ACCOBAMS
MA3a	Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS Resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress

Expected outcomes	Level of implementation and compliance with ACCOBAMS Resolutions improved
--------------------------	---

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	<i>Status for the current triennium</i>	<i>detailed developments</i>
Implement the mid-term revised ACCOBAMS Strategy	Core	Secretariat, Parties, Scientific Committee Partners, SRCUs, Non-Party Range States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflecting in the Work Programme the revised ACCOBAMS Strategy following the mid-term evaluation of its effectiveness 	Ongoing	Implementation of the 2020-2022 Working Programme
Propose remedy actions in cases of non-follow-up with ACCOBAMS Resolutions and infringements	Core	Follow up Committee, Secretariat, Parties, Scientific Committee Partners, SRCUs, Non-Party Range States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convening a Follow up Committee meeting Applying Follow up Procedures 	Ongoing	<p>The third meeting of the Follow-up Committee is planned to be held in March 2022.</p> <p>Following the submission by OceanCare regarding the failure by ACCOBAMS Mediterranean Countries to implement the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan for Mediterranean common dolphins, received at the Secretariat on 1st December 2016, the Focal Point from Malta has provided the information in August 2020. This information was provided to the Follow up Committee Members.</p>

MA4	ACCOBAMS EXTENSION AREA
MA4a	Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas

Expected outcomes	ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards implemented in the adjacent areas
--------------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Status for the current triennium	detailed developments
Encourage ratification of Amendment for geographical extension of the Agreement area to the Atlantic	Core	Secretariat, Depository		Ongoing	<p>The Executive Secretary took opportunities to discuss this issue with several Focal Points and the Depository country.</p> <p>The Secretariat received an information from the Depository regarding the ratification of the Amendment from Italy in October 2021. Italy has ratified the Amendment in July 2021. At present, 9 Parties have ratified the Amendment for geographical extension of the Agreement area to the Atlantic.</p> <p>Contacts with Portuguese authorities were made since mid-2020 and allowed to understand the technical difficulties in relation to the application of Annex 2 (par.1.a) to the overall PT EEZ. These are preventing PT from launching the ratification process of the Amendment regarding the extension of ACCOBAMS geographical area.</p>

CONSERVATION ACTIONS (CA)

CA1

IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE STATUS OF CETACEANS

CA 1 a

Cetacean population estimates and distribution

Expected outcomes

Improved knowledge of cetacean populations in the ACCOBAMS Area
Global distribution and abundance of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea and Black Seas established, based on results of surveys

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Status for the current triennium	detailed developments
Interpret and disseminate results / subsequent recommendations of the ASI in the Mediterranean and Black Seas	Core	Scientific Committee Secretariat Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing workshops dedicated to ASI data analysis/interpretation (CB) Publishing a report on the ASI results Disseminating the ASI results and experience in relevant regional/international fora 	Ongoing	<p>The first subregional data analysis ASI Workshop was conducted in Italy in Nov 2019 for the central Mediterranean. The 2 other Mediterranean subregional workshops were postponed to 2022. The Black Sea Training workshop was partly conducted online (CeNoBS project) in September 2019 together with a session on the definition of threshold values. If possible, additional training sessions will be conducted back-to-back with the Eastern Mediterranean Workshop in 2022.</p> <p>A Consultation Support Group was set up to guide the organisation and development of the ASI Technical Conservation recommendation workshop. On the basis of detailed ToRs, the workshop was prepared by the Secretariat, with support from a consultant, a Moderating Agency and speakers and contributors. Set up in three online sessions, the workshop was held on 11-12 and 14-15 October 2021. The workshop report includes recommendations and outcomes which emerged from this collaborative work.</p> <p>The Data analysis process was finalised for the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea in 2021. Both reports (<i>Estimates of abundance and distribution of cetaceans, marine mega fauna and marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea from 2018 2019 surveys</i> and <i>Estimates of abundance and distribution of cetaceans in the Black Sea from 2019 surveys</i>) were launched during an ASI short online event on 22 April 2021, who</p>

				<p>gathered around 200 participants; The reports are available online on ACCOBAMS website, as well as the recording of the online event.</p> <p>The ASI results and experience were shared during different <i>fora</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a Black Sea Habitats Workshop October 30th 2020 - a EC Black Sea Green Diplomacy virtual event, 16 November 2020 - an online event 22 April 2021: Release of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative Results in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. - CeNoBS final workshop June 2021 - The ASI was also presented during online workshops organized by the CARIMAM project in the Caribbean Region in 2020 - CORMON meeting on Biodiversity and Fisheries in June 2021 - IUCN Congress in September 2021 <p>Exchanges are ongoing with SPA/RAC and the Barcelona Convention Secretariat to assess how the ASI data regarding cetaceans/sea turtles' distribution & abundance will be integrated in the 2023 MedQSR. The Secretariat and SC members participated at several meetings in this context; including to the CORMON meetings in December 2020 and June 2021 and bilateral meetings with INFO RAC and the SPA RAC on the development of IMAP info system.</p> <p>A special issue was opened in the Journal Frontiers for Marine Sciences on the Research topic The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI): Implementing Large Scale Surveys for Marine Megafauna the Mediterranean and Black Seas. The call for abstracts and manuscripts is currently open under supervision of the Editor board.</p>
<p>Support long-term monitoring in the ACCOBAMS Area using the ASI framework (methodology, network, funding mechanism...)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Scientific Committee Partners, SRCUs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing coordination meetings at the sub-regional level • Developing a strategy to fund ASI on the long-term • Supporting the development of specific collaborations among scientific entities • Supporting implementation of sub regional surveys 	<p>A Workshop ACCOBAMS/AFB "Towards coordinated marine mammal monitoring programmes for MSFD second cycle 2020-2026" was organized at the WMMC in December 2019 producing recommendations to foster collaboration and transboundary consultations between existing and upcoming marine mammal monitoring programmes.</p> <p>The two-year EU Funded ABIOMMED project started in July 2021 and the Secretariat is coordinating the activity "Streamlining Descriptor's D1 selected criteria regarding mammal's species groups (small toothed</p>

					<p><i>cetaceans, deep diving toothed cetaceans and baleen whales) towards coordinated monitoring and assessment in the Mediterranean region". ACCOBAMS will support in particular the establishment of a working group composed by the researchers/managers appointed by the MSFD national competent authorities for cetaceans monitoring in each EU Mediterranean country, aimed at strengthening the coordination for monitoring cetacean MSFD related criteria, including the definition of proposals for regionally harmonized monitoring strategy and thresholds values.</i></p> <p>The Secretariat developed an intermediate assessment of ASI project, which is a basis for the work related to the sustainability of monitoring in the Area. In this context, two consultants were recruited in June and September 2020 to assist the Secretariat in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. defining the ACCOBAMS long Term monitoring programme 2. developing an evaluation of ASI Project and a roadmap to support a long-term monitoring programme, including the identification of funding and institutional mechanisms
Promote the use of multidisciplinary surveys (such as fisheries / acoustic surveys), innovative technologies (UAV, satellite) and of platforms of opportunity (ferries, whale watching vessels, navy vessels, etc..) to collect data on cetacean's distribution and abundance	Core	<p>Scientific Committee Secretariat Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners, SRCUs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing guidelines / best practices on the implementation of multidisciplinary surveys and on the use of platform of opportunity and innovative technologies to collect data on cetacean's distribution and abundance • Reviewing the existing surveys/scientific efforts at the national/regional scale that could be used to collect data on distribution and abundance of cetaceans • Collaborating with relevant Organisations, such as ICCAT, to collect data on distribution and abundance of cetaceans 	Ongoing	<p>A feasibility study and experimentation on the use of drones for Cetaceans monitoring in the ACCOBAMS Agreement area was finalized by IMMRAC/University of Haifa and Murdoch University. Reports and results were provided during the summer 2020.</p> <p>In the context of the Sphyrna Odyssey 2019 project, an experiment was conducted with Marine Conservation Research in March 2019 in the South of France to test the feasibility of unmanned surface vehicles in estimating the distribution and abundance of cetacean species.</p> <p>Experts were contracted to work on the use of UAVs, multidisciplinary and platforms of opportunity to collect data on Cetacean distribution and abundance. The results of those 3 studies are presented during to the Scientific Committee meeting.</p> <p>In this context, the Secretariat and the SC co-Chair participated in an online Expert Event on the use of drones in the marine environment late 2020 (France - Pôle Méditerranée)</p>

<p>Initiate the establishment of a regional repository for data on cetacean's distribution and abundance based on the conclusion of the ASI preparatory study for an information management system for cetacean survey data</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Scientific Committee Secretariat SRCUs Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing proposal(s) for a data repository system 	<p>ASI results related maps were uploaded on NETCOBBAMS for visualisation purposes. Subsequently, a reflection on the use of NETCCOBAMS will be undertaken in the perspective of becoming a repository data system.</p>
---	-------------	--	---	---

CA 1 b	Population Structure
---------------	-----------------------------

Expected outcomes	Improved knowledge on population structure in the ACCOBAMS Area and species conservation management plans completed Exchanges of samples facilitated for joint analysis Data exchanges facilitated for basin wide analysis
--------------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	<i>Status for the current triennium</i>	<i>detailed developments</i>
Improve data collection on cetacean populations genetic in the ACCOBAMS Area	Medium	Secretariat Scientific Committee Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing regional trainings on data collection and analysis (CB) Establishing Guidelines / Best Practices 	Not implemented	Terms of Reference will be presented and discussed during SC14
Encourage better collaboration between tissue banks to facilitate exchanges of samples for joint analysis	High	Scientific Committee Secretariat Parties, Non-Party Range States Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and contacting reference laboratories in the ACCOBAMS Area Supporting the development of specific collaborations among scientific entities 	Ongoing	In the framework of the ACCOBAMS necropsy trainings
Improve photo ID data collection and dissemination	High	Partners, Parties, Non-Party Range States Scientific Committee Secretariat, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entering data in photo ID Catalogues Using Web based databases Organizing regional trainings on photo ID Catalogues (CB) 	Ongoing	

CA 1 c	Monitoring cetacean's status
--------	-------------------------------------

Expected outcomes	<p>IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area is assessed</p> <p>ACCOBAMS Status report on the State of Conservation of Cetaceans is updated and made available on IUCN and ACCOBAMS websites</p> <p>Regional conservation plan for cetaceans in the Black Sea is revised and implemented at the national level</p> <p>Conservation management plans for cetacean species are developed and implemented</p> <p>National Action Plans for cetaceans are developed and implemented</p>
--------------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	<i>Status for the current triennium</i>	<i>detailed developments</i>
Contribute to IUCN threat status assessment of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and update it as relevant	Core	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking species assessments • Organising joint ACCOBAMS--IUCN experts' workshop 	Ongoing	<p>New assessments of the conservation status of Mediterranean and Black Sea cetaceans and update of existing ones according to the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria were launched in 2019 in the context of a dialogue between ACCOBAMS and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in Malaga, with the involvement of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee.</p> <p>All new assessments of Mediterranean species were submitted and reviewed by the Red List Authority and are about to be published by IUCN. Black Sea species were also submitted and are under review by the Red List Authority. Iberian harbour porpoises were also assessed.</p>
Update ACCOBAMS Status report on the State of Conservation of Cetaceans, using ASI results	High	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing and publishing an updated ACCOBAMS Status report on the State of Conservation of Cetaceans 	ongoing	<p>The writing of the book on the Conservation Status of Cetacean in the ACCOBAMS area started in May/June 2019 (two co-authors contracted under the ASI project) The content was reviewed by the Scientific Committee and shared with NFPs. The book was developed with an Editor and printed versions were delivered for the 25th ACCOBAMS Anniversary. An online version is to be posted on line right after the Anniversary. The publication of the book aimed to be done in synchronization with the IUCN Red list reassessment process in 2021.</p>
Revise the Regional Conservation Plan for cetacean in Black Sea	Core	Secretariat, SRCUs Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking the revision of the Regional Conservation Plan for cetacean in Black Sea, in 	Ongoing	<p>The document has not been revised yet due to the delay of all relevant meetings (fisheries and biodiversity).</p>

		Non-Party Range States Scientific Committee , Partners,	collaboration with the BSC, taking into consideration the IWC Conservation Management Plan.		Based on CeNoBS project assessment
Develop/ revise/ implement relevant Conservation Management Plans for cetacean species	Core	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing ACCOBAMS-IWC-IUCN Experts Workshop(s) to develop/ revise/ conservation Management Plans for cetacean species, taking into account all national conservation plans Supporting the implementation of relevant actions of the approved Conservation Management Plans for cetacean species with emphasize of coordination actions and organization with stakeholders' workshop Organize a joint workshop on common dolphin with ASCOBANS during ECS 2021, (depending on Voluntary Contribution or Ext funds) 	Ongoing	<p>4 Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) are under drafting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fin whale - Risso's dolphin - Bottlenose dolphin - Common dolphin <p>A drafting experts workshop is planned to be organized in March 2022 and draft CMPs will be presented to Parties during MOP8.</p>
Facilitate the Development/ revision/ implementation of National or Regional Action Plans for cetaceans	High	Parties Non-Party Range States, Secretariat, SRCUs Scientific Committee , Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the revision / development of two National Action Plans for cetaceans in collaboration with SRCUs and national authorities (Algeria already identified) 	Ongoing	<p>The National Action plan in Algeria is under finalization. The meeting initially planned in Alger in April 2020 with national authorities, national experts, ACCOBAMS and SPA/RAC representatives was cancelled due to COVID crisis. Several online meetings with national authorities were held in 2021 and Actions and Activities factsheets will be presented during SC14.</p> <p>The Secretariat worked in close collaboration with SPA/RAC to update the Mediterranean Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans which was circulated to SC Members.</p>

CA 1 d	Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation
--------	---

Expected outcomes	Official National Stranding networks are established and operating Information on stranding events regularly exchanged among national networks
--------------------------	---

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Status for the current triennium	<i>detailed developments</i>
Set up /Reinforce official national stranding networks (with all national institutions concerned) as appropriate, and encourage collaborations among national networks of Parties	Core	Parties, Scientific Committee, Secretariat, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing a study on legal/institutional status of National stranding networks in order to assist experts in the establishment of official national stranding network when relevant • Organizing trainings on necropsies, live strandings and response to emergency situation in the ACCOBAMS area following the best practices on causes of death including marine litters, and on the use of relevant databases (CB) • Entering relevant national data into relevant databases, such as MEDACES • Promoting the use of a database of experts/stranding authorities • Encouraging the creation of a permanent expert panel on strandings to assist on emergencies and unusual mortality 	Ongoing	<p>In 2020: The Secretariat supported the participation of 3 experts from Lebanon, Egypt and Montenegro at the marine mammal necropsy workshop, organized by the Department of Veterinary Pathology, University of Liege (Belgium). The workshop was held on 10th July (online marine mammals' <i>post-mortem</i> investigation). The face-to-face marine mammal post-mortem workshop, originally planned from 13th to 15th October 2020 was tentatively postponed to 2022.</p> <p>In 2021: In June and September the Secretariat organized a 5 days-training on necropsies, following the best practices on the investigation of causes of death including incidental catches during fishing operations (bycatch) and marine litter ingestion, entanglement, but also impacts caused by noise, ship strikes and infectious diseases - "Best Practices on cetacean post-mortem investigation and tissue sampling resulted from the harmonization process in ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS".</p> <p>The training was planned to be subdivided in 2 sessions:</p> <p>(1) A 2-days online marine mammal post-mortem investigation webinar using a videoconferencing system, 28-29 June, followed by an on-line evaluation 5 July. Only experts passing the evaluation would be admitted to the face-to-face training.</p> <p>(2) A 3-days face-to-face marine mammal post-mortem training was foreseen for 27-29 September in Liege and on 12-14 October in Padova, accommodating 20 participants each.</p> <p>After the summer evaluation, and in concertation with the trainers due to the restrictions related to the current COVID situation, it was decided to postpone the practical training especially since not all</p>

				<p>participants could obtain the green pass/sanitary pass and also in face of the need to quarantine in and out from/to different countries. Nevertheless, additional online demonstrations were assured:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - late September 2021: an online demonstration from Liege on necropsies - late October 2021: an online demonstration from Padua - until November 2021: online asynchronous lessons released from both Liege and Padua Universities - a second questionnaire prepared end of November are to be filled late December: both questionnaires will be considered for final approval allowing also to the persons who did not pass the first to repair <p>2022: a practical session will be organized in Padua late February 2022;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a practical session will be organized in Liege early March 2022. <p>Given the stranding of a 19 m fin whale in Calais, north coast of France, Thierry Jauniaux, an ACCOBAMS expert on necropsy, has performed a field necropsy and provided the opportunity to all ACCOBAMS experts to follow the ongoing live necropsy procedures.</p> <p>During CSMC5, participants from southern Mediterranean countries were encouraged to provide their data to MEDACES</p>
--	--	--	--	--

CA2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)
-----	--

CA 2 a	Interactions with fisheries / aquaculture
--------	--

Expected outcomes	Impacts of cetaceans' bycatch and depredation are assessed and mitigation measures are tested Regional bycatch/depredation strategy is developed Ecotourism activities (whale watching and pescatourism) are promoted as an alternative income source to fishermen impacted by depredation
--------------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	<i>Status for the current triennium</i>	<i>detailed developments</i>
Assess / Monitor the impacts of interactions with fisheries/ aquaculture (bycatch, depredation and prey depletion) and propose alternative best practices measures and / or technics	Core	Parties Scientific Committee , through the JBWG Secretariat , Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replicating projects on interactions with fisheries • Implementing on-board observers programme and port questionnaires, and testing mitigation measures in the countries supported by the MAVA funded projects • Assessing /updating the extent of interactions with fisheries/ aquaculture in other countries, including through the use of stranding data • Collaborating with relevant entities, in particular with GFCM and IWC BMI 	ongoing	<p>Bycatch monitoring continues in Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey within the MedBycatch2 project, following a multitaxon approach with on-board observers and port questionnaires (as per the GFCM Methodology for data collection). Results of Phase 1 monitoring are used to revise the monitoring strategy in each country and to determine the mitigation measures to be tested in 2022. The implementation of the MedBycatch was extended to Croatia and Italy through Phase 2 of MedBycatch project. Several activities related to communication and advocacy are led by local partners in the countries.</p> <p>Depredation caused by bottlenose dolphins in small pelagic purse seine fisheries is monitored in Morocco and Tunisia, and mitigation measures are being tested (innovative strengthened nets and acoustic deterrent devices, respectively). The Moroccan team (INRH) was trained to photo-ID and visual monitoring methods. The Tunisian team (INSTM & INAT) is being trained on acoustic monitoring methods. New activities started in Italy (Sicily), Malta and Spain (Andalusia) within Phase 2 of the Depredation project. In addition, thanks to Phase 2 of the Depredation project, the contract of Julie Belmont (current ASI Project Officer) was extended until December 2022, and thus she took the lead of the Depredation Project in 2021.</p>

				<p>An online workshop was organized in November 2020 within the framework of the MAVA Depredation project to facilitate exchanges of experiences between different national teams and with other projects/initiatives addressing depredation. Conclusions from this workshop are presented in document SC14/2021/Inf09.</p> <p>A standardized methodology to collect data on depredation in the ACCOBAMS Area is under development. To ensure alignment with the by-catch monitoring methodology, this work is conducted by a GFCM expert who will present his approach at the 14th Scientific Committee Meeting.</p> <p>Both MedBycatch and Depredation projects are implemented in collaboration with GFCM and other regional partners.</p> <p>The Secretariat is also involved in the MAVA Partnership project aimed at strengthening communication and synergies among the different MAVA partners involved in the MAVA Action Plans related to interactions between fisheries and biodiversity and the preservation of living marine resources. By improving the visibility of the partnership, the objective is also to attract new funding to ensure the sustainability of the partnership after 2022 when MAVA Foundation will come to an end.</p> <p>An additional grant was provided by MAVA Foundation to capitalize on lessons learnt in the countries, mainly through the organization of national workshops with observers and relevant stakeholders. These activities are led by local partners (TUDAV in Turkey and INRH in Morocco).</p> <p>As data from stranding can be a complementary source of information on bycatch, the Task Managers on Interactions with Fisheries (Joan Gonzalvo and Souad Lamouti) have been preparing a review of available bycatch data in stranding databases. The report of this study is available in document -SC14/2021/Doc19.</p> <p>ACCOBAMS was involved in the CeNoBS project pilot on cetacean bycatch monitoring carried out in Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and</p>
--	--	--	--	---

					<p>Ukraine, facilitating in particular exchanges with GFCM. A summary of the results is presented in document -SC14/2021/Doc20.</p> <p>The First Meeting of the Joint Bycatch Working Group of ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS was held online from 10 to 12 February 2021. Recommendations are presented in document -SC14/2021/Inf10.</p>
Develop a regional strategy on cetaceans' bycatch and depredation	High	<p>Scientific Committee, through the JBWG Parties Secretariat, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of Cetaceans' bycatch and depredation issues in the strategy document to be prepared in the MedBycatch project • Collaborating with relevant entities, in particular with GFCM and IWC BMI 	ongoing	<p>This action is developed through the MedBycatch project. Instead of developing a single strategy document, project partners agreed that as 2020 was a milestone year for a number of key organizations in the Mediterranean and that multiple Mediterranean countries would be revising/updating their priorities and action plans in view of a post-2020 framework (e.g. GFCM mid-term strategy concluding in 2020, Post 2020 SAP/BIO, new CBD strategy, etc.) it would be of greatest value to integrate the bycatch issue in these various processes, so that related aspects would be considered and increasing the chances of being tackled as priority.</p>
Provide support to Parties to promote the development of ecotourism activities as an alternative income to fishermen	High	<p>Scientific Committee, [through the WWWG] Parties Secretariat, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a Guidance policy document for the development of sustainable ecotourism and whale watching activities • Supporting the identification of areas for the development of ecotourism activities as an alternative income to fishermen 		<p>In Morocco, in collaboration with the Maritime Fisheries Department, a consultant prepared a draft legal text aimed at defining the regulatory basis for the practice of pescatourism. This draft legal text is being reviewed by other competent authorities (Ministry of Transport).</p>

CA 2 b	Anthropogenic underwater noise
--------	---------------------------------------

Expected outcomes	Core anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise are monitored in the ACCOBAMS Area Mitigation measures for anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise are used
--------------------------	---

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	<i>Status for the current triennium</i>	<i>detailed developments</i>
Encourage the monitoring of anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise	Core	Scientific Committee including through the JN WG Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs QM2 partners³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing trainings for national entities on noise monitoring (CB), including analyses of PAM collected data in some identified priority areas • Taking into consideration work achieved and advices provided by the JN WG • Revising/completing impulsive noise hotspots maps of the ACCOBAMS area using Big Data Platform • Supporting monitoring programmes of impulsive noise impact indicator in particular by managing the regional impulsive noise register, proposing methodology to establish threshold values and implementing pilot studies • Disseminating deliverables of the QuietMed and QuietMed2 projects on guidance for underwater noise monitoring and assessment, • Supporting the development of projects to monitor continuous noise³. • Revising and updating the ACCOBAMS Guidelines on underwater noise 	ongoing	<p>The revision of impulsive noise hotspots maps of the ACCOBAMS area using Big Data Platform is ongoing by experts recruited by the Secretariat. It will be presented during SC14.</p> <p>CeNoBS and QuietMED2 projects finished in 2021 (respectively January and June). Several workshops and training were organized end of 2019 and 2020 in order to build awareness amongst competent authorities on regional impulsive noise register and to propose methodology aiming at defining threshold values.</p> <p>The Secretariat is involved in a new EU funded-project QUIETSEAS project” Assisting (sub) regional cooperation for the practical implementation of the MSFD second cycle by providing methods and tools for D11 (underwater noise)”. The Secretariat participated at TG-Noise Meetings in 2020 and 2021 and has been approached by the Chair of the EU-TG-Noise to be involved in the Drafting Group on deliverable 3 (DG DL3): “Assessment framework for EU threshold values for continuous underwater noise”. An ACCOBAMS expert was designated to participate at this Drafting Group.</p> <p>The Secretariat is involved, as associated Partner, in a European project Life-PIAQUO, led by Naval Group, which aims at reducing the impact of maritime traffic noise on marine ecosystems.</p>

³ QuietMed2 Partners

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing cooperation on underwater noise issue with other international Organizations 		<p>The Secretariat is a member of a French Working Group on noise which aims at identifying priorities to mitigate underwater noise impacts at a national level.</p> <p>The Secretariat was invited by “Monacology” teams to organize a workshop on underwater noise in March 2020. Since the event was cancelled, the Secretariat participated with an article on noise in <u>IMPACT magazine</u> published by Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.</p> <p>New Terms of Reference for a Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS and Operational Procedures for the Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS were agreed and presented for information during the SC13 Meeting.</p> <p>Moreover, to facilitate consultation with industry experts on the technical feasibility of proposed measures as well as on any alternative measures or solutions, an Industry Advisory Group (IAG) has been created.</p>
Encourage the use of mitigation measures for anthropogenic activities generating underwater noise	Core	<p>Scientific Committee including through the JNWG Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the ACCOBAMS Highly qualified MMO/PAM operators’ certificate • Granting the status of ACCOBAMS HQMMO Partners to entities for the implementation of the Highly qualified MMO/PAM operators’ certificate • Revising and updating the ACCOBAMS “Guide for Parties to use mitigation measures “ • Developing cooperation on underwater noise issues with other International Organizations 	ongoing	<p>The Secretariat was contacted by IOGP regarding the implementation of a specific training course "ACCOBAMS certification" for Highly qualified MMOs (for a Mediterranean geophysical acquisition project that will take place in 2021/2022).</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with the MMO/PAM WG and Industrials in order to improve the existing training and to develop online training so to overcome the COVID-19 situation preventing face-to-face meetings.</p>

CA 2 c	Ship strikes
--------	--------------

Expected outcomes	Occurrence of ship strikes in high risk areas is reduced
-------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Status for the current triennium	detailed developments
Monitor / assess high-risk areas for ship strikes (CCH) in the Mediterranean Sea	High	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging the entry of ship strikes data in relevant databases Developing a protocol for investigating and documenting ship strikes injuries and mortalities Identifying high risk areas for ship strikes (CCH) Developing cooperation on ships strike issue with other International Organizations, such IWC, EMSA (EU) / REMPEC / IMO and contributing in any other relevant initiatives, projects and workshops in the ACCOBAMS Area 	Ongoing	<p>During the IUCN Congress 2020 (September 2021), in the framework of the Mediterranean stand, the Secretariat co-organized, in collaboration with French authorities, a specific side-event regarding a proposal for a new PSSA in the north-western Mediterranean.</p> <p>The Secretariat participated at a Technical workshop (18 & 19 October 2022, Paris, France) : « Cooperation for a Transboundary PSSA in NW Mediterranean Sea »</p> <p>The Secretariat is involved as an associated Partner in project SICOMAR+ as well as in a French project called “Stop Collision”.</p>
Promote the use of mitigation measures	High	Secretariat, Scientific Committee Parties, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following up on mitigation measures implemented Promoting the use of relevant mitigation tools/measures (CB) Pursue the development of a “whale safe” certificate 	Ongoing	

CA 2 d	Cetacean watching
--------	-------------------

Expected outcomes	Cetacean watching activities are properly conducted in the ACCOBAMS Area
-------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	<i>Status for the current triennium</i>	<i>detailed developments</i>
Maximize the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts of whale watching activities on individual cetaceans and on populations	High	Scientific Committee through the WWWG Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathering information on cetacean watching activities and identifying potential issues in order to identify the hotspots of WW activities in the ACCOBAMS area • Testing the proposed common procedure (data collection system) for whale watching vessels in pilot areas and a variety of operation types (e.g. the Liguro-Provençal Basin, Gibraltar Strait, and south Portugal), in collaboration with relevant projects such as EcoStrim • Revising the Guidelines for commercial cetacean-watching in the ACCOBAMS Area (in accordance, if relevant, with the guidance document to be prepared on the development of ecotourism activities as an alternative income to fishermen) • Working in close cooperation with IWC and other relevant International Organizations 		<p>Several virtual meetings of the Whale Watching Working Group were held between March and November 2021. The report of the Whale Watching Working Group is presented in document - SC14/2021/Doc27.</p> <p>A consultant (Gianna Minton) was recruited by the Secretariat to conduct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a study aimed at identifying hotspots of WW activities in the ACCOBAMS area, based on questionnaires circulated to data collection partners in each country of ACCOBAMS Area. The methodology and the questionnaires were developed under the guidance of the Whale Watching Working Group. The first phase of the data collection process was initiated in November 2020 and the second phase will be concluded in November 2021. A progress report of this study is presented in document -SC14/2021/Doc28. - a full revision of the Guidelines for monitoring programs aimed at maximizing the chance of detecting potential adverse impacts of whale watching activities on individual cetaceans and on populations. The draft Guidelines for the management of cetaceans watching activities in the ACCOBAMS Area are included in document - SC14/2021/Doc29.

Support the implementation of the HQWW certificate in the ACCOBAMS area	High	Parties Partners Secretariat, Non-Party Range States, Scientific Committee SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the implementation of the HQWW certificate by Parties and in areas -based management measures in collaboration with relevant projects such as EcoStrim • Organizing Trainings on HQWW (CB Parties) • Liaising with relevant tourism Organisations 	<p>In 2020 and 2021 the Secretariat provided MIRACETI with a small financial support for the animation of the HQWW label in France and particularly for the training session for operators in February 2021.</p> <p>The Secretariat organised 3 meetings (July and November 2020 and April 2021) with the FR authorities and animators of the label, with the purpose of investigating possible ways to improve and better implement the certification system. Consideration was given to the role of ACCOBAMS as the owner of the HQWW® Certificate, which can constitute an important “touch point” in the framework of the future communication strategy.</p> <p>The Secretariat participated with MIRACETI and Pelagos Agreement at the session organised by CARIMAM so to illustrate the example and experience of the ACCOBAMS HQWW® Certificate and certification process.</p>
---	------	--	---	---

CA 2 e	Marine litter
--------	---------------

Expected outcomes	The monitoring of marine litter in relation with cetaceans is improved
-------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Status for the current triennium	detailed developments
Monitor the impacts of marine litter (ingested marine litter / microplastics / entanglements in ghost nets) on cetaceans	Core	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the implementation of the standardized necropsy protocol including the assessment of ingested marine litter and entanglement in ghost nets • Supporting pilot monitoring activities at the sub regional level through the implementation of the standardized necropsy protocol including the assessment of ingested marine litter and entanglement in ghost nets • Encouraging the report in stranding databases of marine litters data collected during necropsies • Identifying potential hotspot areas for cetacean entanglement and ingestion of marine litter, including through the assessment of entanglements/ingested marine litters during necropsies • Promoting/ supporting/ liaising with projects, research activities in order to evaluate and assess impact of microplastic on cetaceans using big data platform • Collaborating with relevant Organizations (MEDPOL) and 	ongoing	<p>A study on the hotspots of interactions between cetaceans and marine litter in the ACCOBAMS Area is being prepared In liaison with relevant experts and scientists from the ACCOBAMS Area. The draft report is presented in document ACCOBAMS-SC14/2021/Doc30.</p> <p>A collaboration with RAMOGE and Pelagos Agreement was established in the framework of the 2020 European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) and during the Monaco Ocean week 2021. A presentational video of ACCOBAMS, RAMOGE et PELAGOS was produced and disseminated on the ACCOBAMS social networks, in order to raise awareness on the impacts of litter in marine environment. The video was also projected at the MedStand during the UICN Congress in September 2021.</p> <p>Exchanges are ongoing with MEDPOL and Barcelona Convention Secretariat to assess how ASI data /results regarding marine litter distribution will be integrated in the 2023 MedQSR. The Secretariat participated in several meetings in this context, in particular CORMON meetings in December 2020 and June 2021.</p>

			projects, in particular Plastic Busters MPAs, Healthy Seas and Black Sea projects		
--	--	--	---	--	--

CA 2 f		Chemical & biological pollution			
Expected outcomes		ACCOBAMS collaborates with relevant Organizations on this issue			
Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Status for the current triennium	detailed developments
Liaise with relevant other Organizations, such as IWC, to assess the impact of chemical & biological pollution (such as pathogens, invasive species) on cetaceans	Medium	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a bibliographic review on the impact of chemical pollution on cetaceans • Developing Guidelines on the best practices to assess the impact of chemical pollution on cetaceans with a focus on emerging contaminants • Developing specific collaboration • Participating in relevant Meetings and Side events 	Ongoing	<p>A bibliographic review on the impact of chemical pollution on cetaceans (including the identification of ad hoc research projects aimed at assessing chemical pollution on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area) is being prepared. The draft report is presented in document -SC14/2021/Doc31.</p> <p>Guidelines on best practices to assess the impact of chemical pollution on cetaceans / to measure the chemical contamination on cetaceans are being prepared. These guidelines are intended to provide simple information on scientific protocols to be implemented for collecting/analysing samples. Draft guidelines are presented in document -SC14/2021/Doc32.</p>

CA 2 g	Climate change
--------	----------------

Expected outcomes	ACCOBAMS cooperates with regional initiatives on climate change, taking into account cetacean conservation
--------------------------	--

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	<i>Status for the current triennium</i>	<i>detailed developments</i>
Contribute to regional initiatives on climate change	Medium	Scientific Committee Secretariat, Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaising with relevant CMS Working Group • Participating in Meetings and side events 	Ongoing	A consultant was recruited by the Secretariat to conduct a study on the evolution of cetaceans' population with environmental changes over 25 years in the North-Western Mediterranean Sea is ongoing. Results will be presented during SC14 in November 2021, in document -SC14/2021/Doc33.

CA 2 h	Captivity related issues
--------	--------------------------

Expected outcomes	All specimens held in captivity in the ACCOBAMS area are listed The identification of origin of <i>Tursiops truncatus ponticus</i> bred or kept in captivity is undertaken
--------------------------	---

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	<i>Status for the current triennium</i>	<i>detailed developments</i>
Identify specimens held in captivity in the ACCOBAMS area, including the case of reintroduction in accordance with the provision of the Resolution 3.20	High	Scientific Committee Parties Non-Party Range States, Secretariat Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating and completing the overview of specimens held in captivity in the ACCOBAMS area, including the case of reintroduction in accordance with the provision of the Resolution 3.20 Legal and scientific analysis // Evaluating the situation of semi-captivity in ACCOBAMS area and providing Guidelines or reference document 	Ongoing	<p>The Secretariat contracted an expert for technical and scientific assistance in the implementation of the work programme activities regarding captivity issues. He produced <i>inter alia</i> an overview of specimens held in captivity across the ACCOBAMS area.</p> <p>A draft document “Scientific perspective on “potential marine semi-enclosed facilities” in the ACCOBAMS Area” will be presented during SC14, in document -SC14/2021/Doc34.</p>
Identify origin of cetaceans bred or kept in captivity /Genetic passport for dolphins in captivity / in order to support the implementation of the CITES decisions 17.299 to 17.301 on bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus ponticus</i>)	Medium	Secretariat Scientific Committee Parties Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of genetic passport in view of disseminate protocol or methodology for such cases Support the development of a genetic registry for Black Sea bottlenose dolphins by CITES 	Not implemented	-

CA3	ENHANCE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS CRITICAL HABITATS
------------	--

CA 3 a	Area-based measures for cetacean conservation
---------------	--

Expected outcomes	<p>Cetacean Critical Habitats are updated</p> <p>Implementation of relevant measures are initiated in some pilot Cetacean Critical Habitats</p>
--------------------------	---

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	<i>Status for the current triennium</i>	<i>detailed developments</i>
Regularly update Cetacean Critical Habitats (CCH) including by identifying priority areas for action to mitigate the known threats (bycatch...) / area-based management measures	Core	Scientific Committee, Secretariat, Parties, Partners, Non-Party Range States, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathering data, in particular through the organization of regional workshops to update CCH, considering the IMMAs and EBSAs process 		<p>CCH process is still ongoing. A consultant was recruited by the Secretariat to gather data.</p> <p>Progress in revising Cetacean Critical Habitats will be presented during SC14 in document -SC14/2021/Doc35</p> <p>An expert workshop is planned for March 2022.</p>
Support implementation of relevant measures for adequate management in CCH	Core	Scientific Committee, Secretariat, Parties, Non-Party Range States, Partners, SRCUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and promoting relevant management measures in pilot CCH, in collaboration with all stakeholders (CB) Collaborating with other Organizations, such as UNEP-MAP/RAC-SPA, BSC, IMO, IWC, and GFCM, in particular through the Strategic Alliance 		<p>The Secretariat led a coordinator's role in organising the IUCN Med Stand sessions under theme 3 – "Improving Partnership and effective and equitable governance of Mediterranean natural resources" – where a global message in relation to the partnership and governance of the Med resources was provided together with other organisations</p> <p>The Secretariat is involved in the organisation of the 2020 Mediterranean MPA Forum and is involved in 3 other working groups: « Policy and Governance », « Management and Knowledge » et « Capacity and Awareness »</p> <p>The Secretariat is engaged in the OECM process and showcased ACCOBAMS during the first Workshop webinar "Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) for the Mediterranean", on 14 June 2021.</p>

					The Secretariat participated at 3 meetings with Barcelona Convention, CGPM, FAO and SPA/RAC under the Strategical Alliance so to explore synergies and alignment of respective priorities
--	--	--	--	--	---

CA4	ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT CETACEANS
------------	---

CA 4 a	Information /Communication / Awareness about cetaceans
---------------	---

Expected outcomes	<p>All ACCOBAMS Bodies, national focal/contact points, Partners and other relevant national institutions, Organizations and experts are familiar with activities implemented by or relevant for ACCOBAMS and share information accurately</p> <p>General public and other relevant stakeholders are aware about cetaceans and need for their conservation through activities supported by or linked to ACCOBAMS</p>
--------------------------	---

Proposed Action(s)	Priority	Action lead by and in cooperation with	Means of implementation	Status for the current triennium	detailed developments
Maintain regular information/ communication about ongoing activities, cooperation and funding possibilities, cetacean conservation scientists and experts operating in the region and other relevant information; facilitate communication among cetacean conservation actors of the ACCOBAMS area, in particular in Southern Mediterranean countries	Core	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Partners, SRCUs, Parties, Non-Party Range States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing an information/ communication strategy 	Ongoing	The Secretariat recruited an international Consultant to develop an ACCOBAMS Communication Strategy proposal in view of its adoption at the Eighth Meeting of the Parties to be held in November 2022 in Malta. Beginning of 2021 this work has started with a diagnosis stage, whose preliminary results were presented at the Fifth Meeting of National Representatives, as reflected in document SC14/2021/Inf14
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing a Conference on cetacean conservation in South Mediterranean Countries - CSMC (CB) 	Done	CSMC5 was held online in April 2021. Please see the Report of the Fifth Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing the current citizen sciences initiatives in the ACCOBAMS area and produce basic guidelines on the use and how to gather information Evaluating the relevance of "Citizen Science" input of cetaceans' sightings in expert-supervised databases Organizing Public awareness events 	Ongoing	<p>On 24 November 2021, ACCOBAMS celebrates its 25th Anniversary. The occasion will be officially celebrated on 23 November 2021. HSH Prince Albert II will unveil an artistic piece to be displayed in Monaco close to the Oceanographic Museum.</p> <p>The ACCOBAMS Secretariat launched a contest for creating the ACCOBAMS 25 years anniversary logo. The winning design was selected by the ACCOBAMS Bureau Members in December 2020.</p> <p>The Secretariat approached the Stamp Issuing Office in Monaco in order to publish a commemorative stamp as well as a postal flame. The stamp was issued in May 2021 and is available for purchase in</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Information material and tools • Promoting cetacean conservation actions during national and international events • Producing annual newsletter (FINS) • Posting on ACCOBAMS Website and social media • Posting on NETCCOBAMS 		<p>any postal office until 31 December 2021. The postal flame is issued periodically over the course of 2021.</p> <p>A consultant was recruited by the Secretariat to review the current citizen sciences initiatives in the ACCOBAMS area and evaluate the relevance of “Citizen Science” input of cetaceans’ sightings in expert-supervised databases. It is presented in document - SC14/2021/Doc37.</p> <p>Basic guidelines on the use and how to gather information will be drafted after SC14.</p>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the functioning of MEDACES 		The Secretariat exchanged with SPA/RAC and the Spanish Focal Point regarding MEDACES support.
Introduce in a new Country / Disseminate the ACCOBAMS Teaching Module courses	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the Teaching Module in a new country and supporting its dissemination where the module has already been introduced (CB) • Collaborating in relevant projects such as the realization of the Master of first level in " Conservation Medicine of Aquatic Animals" and the project “Human Oceans Professional Experts” (HOPE) 	ongoing	A collaboration between the Secretariat and MedPAN was established regarding trainings on Conservation and monitoring of cetaceans across Mediterranean MPAs (October 2020).
Enhance public awareness about cetacean’s conservation in the ACCOBAMS area	Core	Secretariat, Parties SRCUs Non-Party Range States Scientific Committee, Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the ACCOBAMS Cetacean Day • Delivering a conservation Awards (ECS, Partners) • Producing Press releases • Posting on social media 	ongoing	<p>News and tweets have been regularly posted on the ACCOBAMS website, and ACCOBAMS social networks.</p> <p>Dolphin day celebration together with ACCOBAMS cetacean day, mainly online due to COVID 19 restrictions.</p>